

Obituary

JOSEPH B. DeLEE, M.D.

Prof. Joseph B. DeLee died at his home in Chicago in the first week of April, aged 72. Often described in the American lay press as "No. 1 obstetrician, U.S.A.," he was actually the world's foremost obstetrician. He was born at Cold Springs, New York, and had lived in Chicago since graduation at the North-Western University Medical School in 1891. He decided to devote his life to obstetric practice, and after postgraduate study in Vienna, Berlin, and Paris he founded in 1895 the Chicago Lying-in Hospital and Dispensary. He was professor of obstetrics at his Alma Mater from 1896 to 1929, and at the University of Chicago from 1929 to 1935, when he was made emeritus professor. In 1903 he founded the Chicago Maternity Centre, which is now attended annually by 3,000 expectant mothers and 300 medical students. He was largely responsible for the building in 1930 of the present-day Chicago Lying-in Hospital.

His writings earned him a world-wide reputation: his textbook *Principles and Practice of Obstetrics*, now in its 7th edition, is unequalled in text and illustration; and his comments on the abstracts in the *Year Book of Obstetrics*, for which he had been responsible for 39 years, were uniquely lucid and stimulating. He was an Honorary Fellow of the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society. His writings also show how keen a student he was of the history of obstetrics. During a European tour in 1938 he made a long-planned pilgrimage to the tomb and library of William Smellie in Lanark; he then derived particular pleasure from being able to handle a book written by Smellie in which are annotations in the author's handwriting. Finding no chairs in the room at the Lindsay Institute in which the library is now housed, he kindly arranged for two armchairs of Chippendale design to be acquired. Dr. DeLee had two hobbies—his farm and photography; the latter he put to great practical use by producing a wonderful series of motion pictures illustrating obstetric procedures.

Prof. DeLee was one of the earliest advocates of the lower segment Caesarean section, and he was the first obstetrician to insist on the use of face-masks in midwifery practice.

M. H. P.

Dr. REGINALD CARMICHAEL WORSLEY died on May 22 at Nottingham. Born in 1865 at Salcombe Regis, Devon, he was educated at Forest School, Essex, and qualified M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. from University College Hospital, London, in 1891. Dr. Worsley had a long life of varied practice that gave him a wide experience. For several years he practised at Ramsgate, where he was honorary surgeon to the Ramsgate and St. Lawrence Royal Dispensary. In 1900 he went to South Africa, where he settled at East London, holding the appointments of medical officer to H.M. Customs and constructional medical officer to the Cape Government Railway. Returning to England in 1907, he practised for many years at Coventry. After the death of his first wife in 1915 he married again in 1918, and went to practise in Devon, which had always been his *ultima thule*. After many years at Topsham he practised for a short time at Black Torrington, and then went to Mitcheldean, Gloucestershire, to be nearer his son. In his last few years he practised at Carlton, Notts, where he died—as he had always wished—in full harness. A. W. writes: From the earliest my memories of him were of an indefatigable worker whose interest in his work and inflexible devotion to duty were his basic code of life. He was one with whom a promise was as inviolable as an oath. He was a devoted husband and father, whose life and conduct were at all times founded upon the principles of a deep but simple religious Christian conviction. Essentially a man to use his hands, he was a carpenter whose skill equalled many a regular craftsman's. His experiences in South Africa in those pioneering days gave him the opportunity to develop a great natural genius for surgery and also for midwifery. I have seen him do an emergency operation in a back-veldt farm with a hastily improvised theatre outfit of ordinary domestic utensils, under the worst possible conditions—but a special blessing upon his work always brought the patient through. In his younger days he

was a great gymnast, a man of unusual strength. A very early memory is of him tearing a pack of cards in two with apparently no effort. He was fond of music, especially singing, of wood-carving, sketching, and painting. Of later years all his interests were centred upon his work.

The death on May 20 of Dr. HAROLD ANTOINE DES VŒUX at his house, Batramsley Close, Lymington, removes a senior member of the profession whose name is still remembered with affection and regard by both colleagues and patients. He studied at St. George's Hospital, whence he became M.R.C.S. in 1883, L.R.C.P. in 1884, and M.D.Brux. in 1888. In partnership with Dr. H. H. Menzies he was for a long period of years a very successful and popular general practitioner in the Westminster area of London: both partners were distinguished by professional efficiency, courtesy, and all the characteristics of the best type of doctor. Harold des Vœux had shared "diggings" when a student with another equally popular and successful friend, the late Fred Warner. Eventually, full of years, des Vœux retired to the country, and his spruce bearded figure was seen only occasionally in London thenceforward. His many friends were delighted when, not long after his retirement, he inherited a very substantial legacy from a patient who described herself in her will as "one of his most troublesome patients." He was president of the Smoke Abatement Society. Among the men of his day in London few had so wide a circle of friends as had Harold des Vœux.

Dr. WAYLAND CHARLES CHAFFEY died suddenly on May 8 at Hove. A large part of his working life had been devoted to disease in childhood. He was born at Clapham in 1856 and studied medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, taking the M.R.C.S. in 1879, the M.B.Lond. in 1881, and proceeding to the M.D. in 1899. His first appointment was that of house-surgeon to the Victoria Hospital for Children, Chelsea, where he worked for two years; he was then for a year senior resident medical officer to the Hospital for Children, Pendlebury, near Manchester, and in 1883 returned to London as medical registrar and pathologist to the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. In 1885 he set up in practice at Hove and was appointed to the visiting staff of the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, Brighton; in 1907 he was elected consulting physician to that hospital. He joined the B.M.A. as long ago as 1883, and at the Annual Meeting at Brighton in 1913 was vice-president of the Section of Diseases of Children; he was also a past-president of the Brighton and Sussex Medico-Chirurgical Society. Dr. Chaffey was a man of varied pursuits outside his profession: he collected curios and old chinaware, painted in pastels, and had been a keen fisherman and lawn tennis player. He retired from active work six years ago.

Prof. Wm. Fletcher Shaw, P.R.C.O.G. writes: The passing of RUSSELL ANDREWS is a sad blow to his many old friends in the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, which he did so much to found, and then to guide and direct in its early days. It was the foundation of this College which brought me into close contact with Russell Andrews, and I shall always be grateful to it for letting me know so well a character of such honesty of purpose and loyalty. The first committee set up to consider whether the proposals made were practicable, and, if so, what means should be taken to bring them to fruition, consisted of Blair-Bell, Comyns Berkeley, Maclean, and myself, and in a short time we co-opted Russell Andrews. To found a college is no easy matter, nor are there any precedents to work upon, while opposition lurks round every corner. Russell Andrews was a tower of strength. After every rebuff he was always ready to begin again. His sane outlook realized the attainable limit, while his strength of character opposed the acceptance of compromise less than this, and he could always be counted upon to support in council or in public what he had advocated in private. When the College was registered Russell Andrews became a member of the first Council, and for many years was the chairman of its examination committee. In every examining body this is one of the most important offices, but in a new college striving for new ideals the post is particularly difficult and calls for special gifts, which fortunately Russell Andrews possessed: sympathy with those ideals, but a robust common sense which recognized how far examinations could go in giving expression to those ideals, and an imperturbable temper which was never ruffled by criticism, and a kindly humour which turned away wrath. Russell Andrews was a tower of strength to the young College, and his old friends mark his passing with regret, but remember with thankfulness the privilege of having known so well such an honest and loyal gentleman.